

26 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Dissemination of the National Intelligence  
Digest to Senior Representatives

1. There is attached a staff study, with recommendations, in pursuance of your note on this subject, as quoted:

"Please have Mr. Reber's office make a study and recommendation on this. He should take into consideration security at the specific station, the implications of our representatives assuming or accepting any responsibility to brief ambassadors on substantive intelligence and implications of even having such as this in their possession if they can't tell about it."

2. In the preparation of this study this Office has consulted with [redacted] of ONE, [redacted] of FI and [redacted] of SO, though no attempt was made to obtain concurrence to this paper. It therefore represents the best judgment of OIC.

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

Attachment

OIC:JQR:KM (26 Feb 54)

Distribution:

2 - DDCI  
1 - DDI  
2 - OIC (file)

1 - AD/NE ✓  
1 - DDP  
1 - [redacted]

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Dissemination of the National Intelligence Digest  
to Senior Representatives

Problem:

To make a study and recommendation on the distribution abroad to Senior Representatives of the National Intelligence Digest (NID).

Discussion:

Question 1: What is the NID?

The National Intelligence Digest is designed to be (a) a compilation, by area and country, of pertinent current National Intelligence Estimates reproduced in whole or in part, with unilateral amendments by ONE where updating is required; (b) current intelligence prepared by CIA to round out (a); (c) situation summaries prepared by OCI and ONE staff on areas and countries where no NIE's are available; and (d) in addition to (c) in some cases an ONE estimate where none is available.

The NID, originally or as twice revised, is not a coordinated product of the IAC. It is authoritative only insofar as it reprints NIE's (including dissents). As a reference work to national intelligence it may be somewhat more convenient to use than the sum of the individual National Intelligence Estimates.

Question 2: Who now gets the NID?

This compilation, originally prepared as a part of "Project Victor" to brief incoming President Eisenhower in January 1952, has since been distributed to the members of the National Security Council, the IAC Chiefs, and the Policy Planning Board of the NSC for their information and use, as well as limited internal CIA distribution.

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Question 3: What is the known reaction of recipients of the NID?

25X1 The DDI, in July 1953, submitted a written request to the Chiefs of Intelligence for their opinion of the NID. There have been no replies received except from G-2, who merely requested four additional copies. Both the silence of most of the agencies and the request for additional copies on the part of G-2 might be construed to mean that they find the NID useful for their purposes. FI believes that the Digest is only of marginal value to it because it requires more current and detailed data than the Digest is designed to provide. On the other hand, PP and PM in DDP regard the Digest as an invaluable support for planning and a time-saving reference for daily consultation. In addition, [ ] has consulted with the members of the Planning Board, several of whom respond that the NID is very useful to them. No NID has been sent overseas except by CIA to General Truscott, and in that case it was sent in order to make it available to Ambassador Bohlen.

Question 4: Do the Senior Representatives need the NID?

25X1 To meet the needs of the Senior Representatives in directing clandestine collection and related activities abroad, there already exists a procedure for providing to them NIE's pertinent to their interest. For these functions it is not believed that the Senior Representatives need the NID. However, Senior Representatives at [ ] have additional functions in war planning, and it is believed that relevant portions of the NID would be useful to them.

The Senior Representatives are not normally required to brief the Ambassadors or theatre commanders on such substantive finished intelligence as is encompassed in either NIE's or the NID. Such a role would presumably be undertaken only upon request of the Ambassador or theatre commander and only then when the DCI and the Department or parent service agency concerned are in agreement. To institute distribution of the NID to Senior Representatives might confuse this relationship if not clearly understood. DDP can assure that there is no misunderstanding.

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**Question 5: Will security permit the dissemination to Senior Representatives of the NID in whole or in part?**

**This question will be answered in terms of the foregoing statement of need. If any Senior Representative needs the NID, then appropriate security measures (with the advice of the Director of Security) should be taken to permit dissemination to him.**

**Recommendations:**

**1. That relevant portions be disseminated only to those Senior Representatives who have broad ~~was~~ planning functions (i. e.,**

**2. That the Senior Representatives receiving the NID be instructed that the NID is for their own use and does not imply the creation of any new responsibilities to brief the ambassadors.**

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